



2015 Legislative Priorities

- 1. Implement Federal Domestic Violence Firearms Prohibitions in Oregon:**
Federal law has long prohibited gun possession by domestic violence offenders who have been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, or who are subject to certain restraining orders. Unfortunately, Oregon has no such law. Prohibiting gun possession by domestic violence offenders will facilitate local enforcement of this crime, help reduce lethality, and save lives.
- 2. Close the Gap in Emergency Assistance Coverage for Sexual Assault Victims:**
The TA-DVS program, established in Oregon in 1996, provides one-time emergency assistance of up to \$1200 to survivors of domestic violence seeking safety for themselves and their children. The program can pay for emergency transportation, motel vouchers, food and clothing for a family who had to leave all behind in order to get safe, security locks, and other safety-related expenses. The Alliance seeks two improvements to the program:
 - *Include survivors of sexual assault, so that they too may qualify for emergency funds;*
 - *Increase the allowable assistance to up to \$2000. In 1996, the assistance amount was enough to allow a victim to pay for moving costs and first month's rent in order to move to a safe home. In 2014, this amount provides far less protection.*
- 3. Statewide Capacity for the Domestic Violence DHS Co-Located Advocates Program:**
Increase funding to allow full implementation of this nationally recognized model statewide. More than 1/3 of Oregon's child welfare and self-sufficiency caseloads involve domestic violence. Co-location of victim advocates at DHS offices ensures that victims with children in crisis receive immediate access to domestic violence safety planning and support services. Access to safety supports for parents means less foster care for children, and better results for families.
- 4. Funding for Non-Profit Confidential Shelter and Services for Survivors:**
 - a. Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) Fund in the DOJ Budget:** *ODSVS is the primary source of funding for Oregon's network of confidential shelter, safety planning, and support services for survivors across the state. Despite recent investments, funding levels are still less than 50% of what is minimally required to ensure adequate access to emergency services in all communities.*
 - b. Justice Reinvestment Funding in the CJC Budget:** *Justice Reinvestment represents a transformational shift to giving communities the resources they need to better prevent and respond to crime. Beginning in 2015, 10% of Justice Reinvestment funding is allocated to community-based nonprofit victim services programs.*
- 5. Housing Resources:**
Without access to safe, affordable housing, victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children are often trapped in abusive living situations, or in shelters, with nowhere else to go. Increase funding for emergency, transitional, and permanent affordable housing resources across the state so survivors and their children have greater access to safety and stability.